Appl. No. 09/944,755 Amdt. sent August 13, 2004 Preliminary Amendment

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 4, 6, and 12 - 15 are pending.

An objection to the title was raised. The title has been amended.

Claims 1 - 3, 5, 10, and 11 were rejected. It is noted with appreciation, however, that claims 4, 6, and 12 recite are deemed to be allowable.

In order to obtain an early allowance for the instant application, dependent claims 4, 6, and 12 have been re-written to incorporate the subject of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1 - 3, 5, 10, and 11 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and so the claim rejections are believed to be moot.

In addition, claims 13 - 15 have been added, each reciting allowable subject matter and thus are believed to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, all claims now pending in this Application are believed to be in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

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